

C U L L E N
M A R G A R E T R I V E R



2001 CHARDONNAY

Region

Margaret River, Western Australia

Varieties

Chardonnay

Maturation

11 months in French barriques

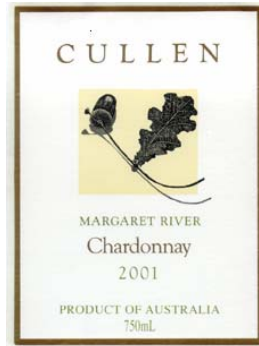
Technical Analysis

14.0% alc/vol

Background

Pioneering winemakers of Margaret River, Diana and Dr. Kevin Cullen established their 72 acre vineyard in 1971. It is now regarded as one of Australia's greatest estates with the Chardonnay considered one of the country's finest. Diana will always be remembered as one of the Australian wine industry's most remarkable and adored women. She was responsible for making the Cullen wines from 1981 until 1989 when she handed the reins to her highly talented daughter, Vanya, Australia's Winemaker of the Year in 2000.

The vineyard is organically farmed and dry grown and has 'A' grade certification with the Biological Farmers Association, after 3 years in conversion. Biodynamic certification is hoped for in 2004.



Winemaking/Vintage

This is arguably the best Chardonnay yet made at Cullen, reflecting the even and moderate temperatures that led up to vintage in 2001. All of the primary fermentation was undertaken using wild yeast, which has given the wine an attractive silky finish and will help ensure its longevity. Barrel tastings of this Chardonnay at two week intervals led to the conclusion that this wine would benefit from the slightly longer time of eleven months in barrel.

Tasting Notes

Deep straw green with gold tinges.

A complex blend of well-integrated lemon, dry pear and quince aromas are backed by subtle vanillin oak. These characters continue through the powerful, yet impeccably balanced palate. Wild yeast fermentation, lees stirring and French oak maturation have all contributed to the dense texture of the wine.

In ideal cellaring conditions, will age well for a decade from release.

Additional Notes:

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